

SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
INCIDENT NO. 2002-007

DATE: January 25, 2002

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment – A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area when a 112-car train derailed on Friday, January 18.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Three individuals remain hospitalized at Trinity Medical Center in Minot. Updated information from local officials indicated 429 people have sought medical treatment.
3. DAMAGES: Visits by Tierricita Vallejo residents to their homes were suspended at 9:30 this morning when an anhydrous ammonia release occurred while cleanup crews were offloading product from the final rail car. The site was temporarily evacuated until concentration levels dropped to acceptable levels. As of noon, resident visits had not resumed.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: In addition to previous reports, the Burlington Police Department, the city of Minot Public Works Department and the Minot Recreation Office provided support.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Ward County Emergency Manager reported 175 people have obtained crisis counseling from the American Red Cross.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Approximately 2,000 Minot area residents have filed claims with the Canadian Pacific Railway center at the Dakota Square Mall in Minot.

Canadian Pacific Railway will set up a center to provide Minot area residents with citywide "real time" air quality monitoring information. A hotline will be established to provide this information to the public and will be broadcast on the local public access television channel. A daily activity bulletin describing cleanup and recovery efforts will be distributed to media and the access channel.

Workers at the derailment site are adding a clay cap to the ground in the hot zone to prevent ammonia vapors from escaping.

A pool suspected of releasing anhydrous ammonia vapors detected one mile away at Bel Air Elementary School has been diluted and drained. The drained area will be covered with Zeolite, a neutralizing agent, and capped with clay.

The N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) has four staff members on site. While escorting Tierricita Vallejo residents to their homes, they collected samples of snow. These samples will be tested for concentration levels of anhydrous ammonia. By request, state health officials are providing air quality testing of homes. In addition, NDDoH personnel tested water from private wells near the derailment site.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director